

Wycombe let down by their defence

WYCOMBE'S season, which has exceeded all expectations, ended on a disappointing note with defeat in an exciting match at Hayes Lane, Bromley on Saturday.

In a fluctuating encounter, Bromley finally squeezed home with the winning goal five minutes from time, to end all hope the Blues had of taking runners-up position.

Enfield's victory over Woking the same afternoon confirmed that fact and put Slough under pressure to win their last match of the season at Sutton on Thursday if they are to take the title. Otherwise Enfield will depart to the Alliance Premier League as Isthmian champions.

For much of the match Wycombe looked to be cruising towards another comfortable victory. But after leading 1-0 at half-time, they conceded three goals in the second half.

It is the first time this season they have lost a match after taking the lead, thus stressing the importance of the first goal.

By MICHAEL KNOX Bromley 3, Wycombe Wanderers 2

The match kicked off an hour earlier to allow the Wycombe players and officials to get back for Jock Sheppard's tribute dinner at Maidenhead in the evening, but it did not prevent the Blues controlling the first half.

Fine saves

After surviving a ten minute Bromley barrage, which was halted only by two splendid saves from Gary Lester from Eddie Read and Derek Brown, Wanderers settled down to play some neat football on a rather bare and dusty pitch.

They took the lead in the 22nd minute, when Bob Dell, preferred to Ken Wilson, lobbed a high cross into the goalmouth.

Goalkeeper Malcolm Broadway made an awful mess of collecting the ball under challenge from Terry Glynn and Terry Scott, as is his wont, bundled it over the line from close in.

Wycombe really should have made it 2-0 a minute later when a great pass by Bobby Davies put Howard

Kennedy in the clear. But the ball bobbled as Kennedy shot and he ballooned this great chance over the bar.

Kennedy has a happy knack of getting into scoring positions and he was desperately unlucky not to have two close range shots blocked on the line just before half-time. Kennedy thought that the second of these had gone over the line before being cleared. But the score was still 1-0 at half-time.

At odd times during the half the reshaped Wycombe defence looked shaky. Paul Birdseye took time to come to grips with the duties of a left back while Simon Dexter did not seem the obvious answer at right back.

These limitations were exposed in the second half. Bromley equalised in the 56th minute. Lester and Bromley striker Butch Dunn collided as they went for Brown's cross from the right and all Tony White had to do was tap it over the line. Instead he lashed it into the roof of the net just to make sure.

Lester had no chance of stopping Bromley's second goal nine minutes later. Phil Basey fired a 15 yard left foot drive just under the bar following good play by White on the right.

These goals stirred Wanderers into action and they forced seven corners in the next five minutes without reward. The closest they came occurred, when Keith Mead, possibly playing his last game in a Blues shirt, headed inches wide.

Manager Mike Keen threw caution to the winds by bringing winger Ken Wilson for Dexter and switching Dell to right back. But the equaliser when it came ten minutes from time was the result of a quick break.

Last laugh

Scott pumped a long ball forward to Glynn, who shrugged off one defender before coolly firing inside the right post for his 29th goal of a successful first season for the Blues.

Wycombe went all out for the winner but it was Bromley who had the last laugh. Dunn beat Mead for pace down the left and found himself with only Lester to beat.

He seemed to have wasted his chance by taking the ball wide but then cleverly chipped it over the keeper. Birdseye's despairing clearance could only help it into the net.

Wycombe can take some consolation from the knowledge that many Bromley fans said it was the most entertaining game they had seen all season. Isn't that what football is really all about?

BROMLEY: M. Broadway; R. Clarke, E. Read, T. Collins, D. Lucas, J. Starkey, T. White, B. Dunn, R. Smith, D. Brown, P. Basey. Sub: C. Mace (not used).

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, S. Dexter (sub: K. Wilson 73 mins), P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. Dell, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, T. Scott, M. Hofffield.

Referee: B. O'Leary.
Half-time 0-1. Scores: Bromley — White (56 mins), Basey (65), Dunn (84); Wycombe — Scott (22), Glynn (80).

Slough must win to take the title

IF Slough win at Sutton United on Thursday night they are champions of the Berger Isthmian League for the first time. Any other result would leave Enfield as champions on their departure to the Alliance Premier League along with Dagenham.

A draw would not be enough for Slough. They and Enfield would be on level points and with an identical goal difference. Enfield, hav-

ing scored more goals, would take the title.

Sutton's FA Trophy final opponents, Bishops Stortford, made sure of gaining promotion from Division One as champions. They just pipped Billericay who are also coming up.

So lucky

The lucky teams not to be relegated from the Premier Division are Woking and Boreham Wood.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	42	23	11	8	81	43	80
Slough	41	22	13	6	71	33	79
Wycombe	42	22	9	11	78	49	75
Sutton	41	19	12	10	81	63	69
Hendon	42	18	10	14	66	58	64
Dagenham	42	17	11	14	79	66	62
Harlow	42	16	11	15	57	52	59
Bromley	42	16	9	17	63	69	57
Hayes	40	16	8	16	40	48	56
Staines	42	15	9	18	60	61	54
Tooting	42	15	8	19	49	53	53
Hitchin	42	14	10	18	64	62	52
Croydon	41	12	15	14	51	50	51
Dulwich	42	13	12	17	62	67	51
Leatherhead	42	12	14	16	38	50	50
Carshalton	42	14	8	20	57	82	50
*Barking	42	13	12	17	58	72	49
Harlow	42	11	15	16	54	66	48
Waltham	41	13	7	21	49	78	48
Boreham Wd	42	10	13	19	46	69	43
*Woking	42	11	7	24	40	70	37

* 2 pts deducted, + 3 pts deducted.